

Amendments to the claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A shell casing for enclosing ~~a case of~~ a tape measure comprising:

a first ~~concave~~ shell ~~with malleable interior sections;~~

a second ~~concave~~ shell ~~with malleable interior sections; and~~

an attachment element that attaches adjustable connection means for connecting
said first ~~concave~~ shell to said second ~~concave~~ shell thereby enclosing the ~~case of the~~ tape measure;

an indicator window located proximate to said tape measure and having an indication mark positioned to be in line with measurement increments arranged on said tape measure;

a marker attached to at least one of said shells and aligned with the indication mark in the window so as to allow marking of an object at the measurement increment that is in line with the indication mark using one and only one hand.

2. (Currently Amended) The shell casing for enclosing ~~the case of~~ the tape measure of Claim 1 further comprising:

a blade connected to at least one of said ~~concave~~ shells and aligned with the indication mark.

3. (Currently Amended) The shell casing for enclosing ~~the case of~~ the tape measure of Claim 1 further comprising:

a retractable blade molded into at least one of said ~~concave~~ shells wherein said retractable blade is molded flush within said ~~concave~~ shell.

4. (Currently Amended) The shell casing for enclosing ~~the case of the tape measure~~ of Claim 2 further comprising: wherein the marker is a lead pencil connected to at least one of said ~~case~~ shells.

5. (Currently Amended) The shell casing for enclosing ~~the case of the tape measure~~ of Claim 2 further comprising: wherein the marker is a retractable lead pencil molded into at least one of said ~~case~~ shells wherein said retractable lead pencil is molded flush within said ~~case~~ shell.

6. (Currently Amended) A combination tool comprising:

a tape measure in a case; and

an indicator window located proximate to said case and having an indication mark positioned to be in line with measurement increments arranged on said tape measure; and

a retractable cutting blade located inside said case and arranged to make cuts corresponding to measurement increments arranged on said tape measure aligned with the indication mark in the window so as to allow marking of or making of a cut on an object at the measurement increment that is in line with the indication mark using one and only one hand.

7. (Currently Amended) A combination tool comprising:

a tape measure in a case; and

an indicator window located proximate to said case and having an indication mark positioned to be in line with measurement increments arranged on said tape measure; and

a retractable pencil molded inside said case in a flush manner and arranged to make pencil marks corresponding to measurement increments arranged on said tape measure, said tape measure including a nail hole at its exposed end a marker attached to said case and aligned with the indication mark in the window so as to allow marking of an object at the measurement increment that is in line with the indication mark using one and only one hand.

8. (Previously Presented) The combination tool of Claim 6 wherein:
said tape measure includes a nail hole at its exposed end.
9. (Currently Amended) The combination tool of Claim 7 wherein:
said ~~retractable pencil~~ marker is adapted to use interchangeable leads or limestone.
10. (Currently Amended) The combination tool of Claim 7 wherein:
said ~~retractable lead pencil~~ marker is a mechanical lead pencil molded into said case in a flush manner.
11. (Currently Amended) The combination tool of Claim 7 ~~further comprising:~~
wherein said indicator window is a clear indicator window located proximate to said tape measure said indicator window including and said indication mark includes an index line located positioned to be in line with said measurement increments.
12. (Currently Amended) A method of making precise measured cuts or marks on objects comprising the steps of:

measuring a distance using a combination tool comprising a tape measure in a case, an indicator window located proximate to said case and having an indication mark positioned to be in line with measurement increments arranged on said tape measure, and a marker attached to said case and aligned with the indication mark in the window so as to allow marking or cutting of the object at the measurement increment that is in line with the indication mark;

viewing through the indicator window and lining up said measurement increment of said tape measure with the indication mark in the indicator window;

marking or cutting the object with said marker that is aligned with the indication mark using one and only one hand at said measured distance by extending a retractable blade located inside said case wherein said blade is arranged to make cuts corresponding to measurement increments arranged on said tape measure.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 12 ~~further comprising the steps of:~~
wherein said marker is a retractable marker and the step of marking or cutting includes making a measurement mark in pencil by extending a retractable pencil lead corresponding to said measurement marks on said tape measure said retractable marker in alignment with the indication mark.

15. (Currently Amended) A ~~The method of making precise measured cuts on objects as in Claim 12 further comprising the steps of:~~

including a nail hole in said tape measure at an exposed end;

inserting a nail through said nail hole into the object; and

rotating said case about the nail in arc to make a circular measured cut in the object.